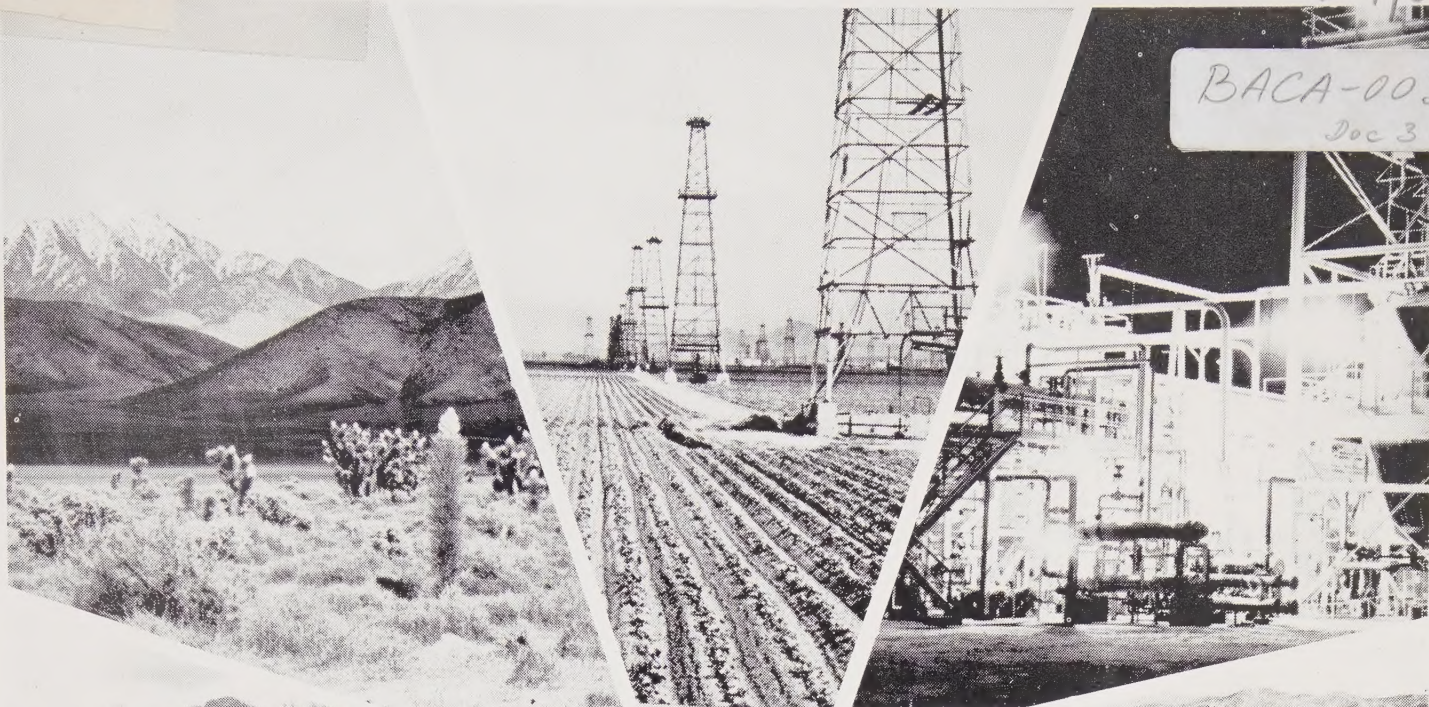


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Economic Survey
KERN COUNTY
"California's Golden Empire"





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ECONOMIC SURVEY

KERN COUNTY

History, Topography and Climate

Kern County, third largest in California, was formed in 1866 from parts of Tulare and Los Angeles Counties. It was named after Edward M. Kern, the topographer of General Fremont's third expedition. Spanish explorers first arrived in the area by 1772 and Hudson's Bay Company trappers appeared about 1830. The first permanent settlers came in 1854 largely because of the discovery of gold shortly before that year. Minerals - first gold, then silver and borax and finally oil and asphalt - played an important role in the early development of the area. Through a large part of its history, the county has been a leader in mineral production.

Kern County lies at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley and nearly a third of the total area is on the flat valley floor which extends down through the eastern half of the county. This valley portion is surrounded by three mountain ranges. On the west is the low Temblor Range which follows the western boundary that runs from northwest to southeast. On the south are the Tehachapis, which also lie almost on the County boundary. To the east is a wide belt of foothills and ranges of the Sierra Nevada Mountains which occupy almost a third of the county area. East of this belt of mountains is an expanse of high desert which covers nearly another third of the area. Except for the irregular slanting western border, the County is almost a perfect rectangle with an average length east and west of about 120 miles and a width of 67 miles and it contains 8,064 square miles.

The climate is semi-arid with no really heavy annual precipitation even in the high ranges. However, the great area covered by mountains provides run-off for a large proportion of the water and power needs of the well-populated lowlands. The rainfall on the valley floor is light and occurs mostly between December and March (see Table 2). During summer days the low humidity usually prevents the heat from being oppressive (see Table 2). Moreover the summer nights, even in the lowlands, generally become pleasantly cool and may become cold in the mountains. Winters, though at times severe in the higher uplands, are mild elsewhere.

Recreation

Few areas in the world can offer such a variety of exciting scenic beauty as is found here. The eastern and southern portion containing over 60 percent of the County's area features lofty mountain ranges, wooded slopes down which course clear mountain streams, grass-covered upland valleys dotted with grazing livestock, and wide expanses of desert with many colored rock and sand formations shimmering under a brilliant sun. There are granite peaks thrusting above the timberline to heights of more than 8,000 feet, sometimes shining in clear sunlight and sometimes shrouded in drifting clouds and mist. In the Mojave Desert is the famed Red Rock Canyon State Park, often called "a symphony in stone." Its walls have been carved by the dry winds of countless ages into towering shapes like pillared temple walls gleaming in iridescent splendor. The wooded glades among the mountains provide thousands of ideal picnic or camp sites which are easily accessible and may be occupied in comfort during the greater part of the year.

The road system that crisscrosses the County, penetrating the mountain ranges at many points, makes this vast recreation area easily reached from any part of the densely settled valley floor. Sometimes only minutes of easy driving can take the traveller from one kind of spectacular scenery to another with such suddenness as to leave him almost breathless. Not only camp sites, but choice hunting and fishing grounds as well, can be found at frequent intervals within short distances of highways. With these natural advantages close at hand, county and city authorities have developed an extensive system of playgrounds and parks throughout the County.

Since the construction of the Isabella Dams, the Kern River Valley has become one of the principal recreation areas of the State. The dams, built just above the Kern River Canyon at the fork of the stream, impound Lake Isabella which provides 38 miles of shoreline and more than 17 square miles of water surface for boating, skiing, and swimming. The lake is kept well stocked with fish. Rainbow trout, black bass, crappie, catfish, pan fish abound. Due to the climate, the lake offers unusual year-round angling sport with no closed season. Accommodations for vacationists in the form of lodges, camp grounds and parks are all about the lake and along the two branches of the Kern River above it. Along the tributaries of the main river branches are virtually untouched mountain and National Forest areas. Special pack trips and tours are arranged to meet the wishes of those who love wild lands. Many high elevations are ideal sites for winter sports. Special facilities for skiers may be found at Shirley Meadows in the Greenhorn Mountain area, Mt. Cerro Noroeste (Mt. Abel) and Mt. Pinos.

The progressive County Parks System includes Lake Woollomes (near Delano) for fishing and non-powered boats, Hart Memorial Park for non-powered boats, Lake Ming, east of Hart Memorial Park, for motor boating, skiing and limited sailboating, and Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area near Taft for boating, skiing, fishing, picnicking and camping.

Population

Growth and change continue to characterize Kern County's population trends. Historically, Kern's population growth was stimulated by the railroad, agriculture and mining activity. More recently, other economic activities have helped to bring about population gains. During World War II, for example, the development of military installations in the eastern part of the county attracted many new residents to that desert area. Edwards Air Force Base and the China Lake Naval Weapons Center continue to play a central role in the economy of eastern Kern County communities.

During the 1970s, Kern County's population increased 22.1 percent, with growth generally accelerating as the decade progressed. From 1970 through 1974, the county grew at an annual average rate of only 0.9 percent, and that modest growth resulted almost entirely from natural increase (births minus deaths). From 1975 through 1979, however, Kern County's population increased at an average yearly rate of 2.9 percent, compared with a statewide growth rate of about 1.7 percent. Final U.S. census figures show a total population for the county of 403,089 as of April 1, 1980.

Close to half of Kern County's 1975-80 population increase was the result of net in-migration, reflecting strong advances in employment opportunities in agriculture, oil production, and private, service-producing activities. In 1979, net in-migration accounted for about 40 percent of the county's population growth, and driver's license change-of-address figures from the State Department of Motor Vehicles indicate that over half of Kern County's new residents came from either Los Angeles County or out of state.

This rapid growth continued throughout 1981 and 1982, with an estimated numerical increase of 39,684, bringing the total population to 442,773 as of January 1, 1983. The county's population is heavily concentrated in the San Joaquin Valley. Bakersfield, the county's capital, was the 12th fastest growing city in the nation (among those with populations of more than 100,000) during the 1970-80 census period, registering an impressive 51.9 percent increase. About half of the County's population lives in Bakersfield and the surrounding unincorporated area.

Ridgecrest, the county's second largest city, with 21,315 residents, more than doubled its population in the 1970s as a result of activities at the nearby China Lake Naval Weapons Center. Delano, an important agricultural center, is Kern County's third largest city, with an estimated population of 18,454 as of January 1, 1983.

Personal Income

Personal incomes of Kern County residents during the 10-year period, 1970-1980, rose from \$1.16 billion to nearly \$3.7 billion, an increase of more than 217 percent (see Table 4). Even more important than the rise in total personal income is the increase in per capita income. Per capita income increased by 160 percent between 1970 and 1980 from \$3,506 to \$9,112.

Although a certain part of this rise was due merely to inflation, which was evident in all areas, it still was sufficient to indicate an increase of about 20 percent in the real per capita income, that is the actual ability of income received to purchase goods and services during that period. As is true of most areas which contain no large metropolitan centers, per capita income of Kern County is somewhat below that of the State. Yet it is considerably higher than in most parts of the United States outside of California. In fact, during the 1978-79 period, the Bakersfield/Kern County Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area recorded the third largest percentage increase in total personal income of any Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area in the United States and the largest in California, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The vast resources, favorable location and various other important elements, which contribute to the great potential of the area insure rapidly increasing incomes for as far as may be projected into the future.

Employment/Payrolls

Between 1977 and 1982, employment in Kern County expanded faster than the population growth rate. While the county's population increased 15.4 percent, employment grew more than 22 percent. Even so, employment opportunities were unable to keep up with the growth of the civilian labor force which increased from 165,700 in 1977 to 210,000 in 1982. This phenomenal growth was directly attributable to the large numbers of families migrating to Kern County from other parts of the state and nation which were harder hit by the recession. As a result, Kern's unemployment rate rose rapidly during 1981 and early 1982, reaching a record high of 16.1 percent in march 1982, thus contradicting the strong economy of the area.

Employment growth often varies considerably between industry categories, and this pattern has been evidenced in Kern County. Figures for 1982 show that the largest employment gains in this same six year period were registered in private service-producing activities, mining and agriculture, with more modest job increases in manufacturing, contract construction and public sector employment.

Healthy increases in population and overall business activity have led to large numbers of new jobs in the sectors of wholesale & retail trade and services. Those two industry groups accounted for more than 50 percent of the county's employment growth from 1977 through 1982. Factors behind the growth in Kern County retailing include the growing urbanization of the population, the increase in the variety of products offered, the rise in real incomes, the growth of tourism and higher prices. Eating and drinking places accounted for an important share of the new jobs in retail trade, while wholesale trade, which showed the strongest percentage growth of any major employment category in 1979 (9.7 percent), is closely tied to Kern County's major basic industries - agriculture and mineral production.

Kern's leadership as an oil and mineral producing county was reflected in the mining sector. Strong demand for petroleum and constantly improving techniques in oil recovery from Kern County's rich fields, as well as increased production of other minerals, make mining one of the county's most dynamic industries. Some 2,300 jobs were added in 1981, bringing total employment to 14,200. Declining oil prices reversed this trend in 1982 and early 1983, with employment dropping to 14,100. With the economic recovery well under way, it is predicted 900 new jobs will open up in 1984, for a total employment of 15,000. That sector presently accounts for about eight percent of total wage and salary employment.

Construction employment growth in Kern County slowed substantially in 1980 after very strong increases in the previous two years, and weakness in residential building during 1981 and 1982 resulted in employment declines. An all-time high in value of building permits issued in 1982, however, is expected to reverse this trend and by 1984 this sector should have fully recovered with employment exceeding 7,500.

Agriculture remains a major contributor to Kern County's economy, providing employment for 18 percent of the wage and salary workers.

One of the most rapidly growing industry groups in the County is that which is designated as Service industries by the Bureau of the Census (see Table 11). Included in this group are hotels and motels, recreation, all kinds of repairs, most business services, most personal services with the exception of public utilities, and medical and legal services. According to census reports, payrolls increased 250 percent and employment nearly doubled during the 1963-1977 period. In that same 14-year period, receipts of this industry group rose from \$65,459,000 to \$247,985,000, or 279 percent in Kern County. The absolute growth of the Kern County market, the increase in per capita income, and the expansion of tourist and recreation activities will offer substantial opportunities for an increase in service employment in the years ahead.

Agriculture

The San Joaquin Valley is the most agriculturally productive area on a per-acre basis of any comparable area in the world. More than 250 different varieties of agricultural crops abound in this prolific valley which comprises about two-thirds of California's great Central Valley--a valley 450 miles long with an average width of 50 miles.

Located at the extreme southern end of the San Joaquin Valley, Kern County is a major contributor to the state's total agricultural output. In 1982 Kern ranked third (behind Fresno and Tulare) among the leading agricultural counties in California and the United States. Gross cash farm receipts exceeded \$1.19 billion.

Agriculture is expected to enjoy steady growth during the present decade, continuing to account for nearly 18 percent of Kern County's wage and salary employment.

Kern County agriculture is characterized by diversification. Over 95 different crops and commodities were produced in 1982, with nearly 60 different commodities each returning more than \$1 million and 37 commodities each returning over \$2 million. New to the list of \$2 million crops is Kiwi production. The 1982 Kiwi crop was nearly triple that of the year before.

Kern County's leading farm commodity is cotton, and over a third of the county's harvest acreage is in cotton production. Grapes rank second in agricultural value, followed by citrus.

Field Crops

Cotton Lint	\$243,686,000	Silage & Annual Forage	\$6,030,000
Alfalfa Hay	46,350,000	Barley	5,704,000
Cotton Seed	31,646,000	Beans, Dry, Edible	4,158,000
Wheat	26,280,000	Hay, Grain	3,600,000
Pasture, range	11,025,000	Hay, Other	2,145,000
Sugar Beets	8,446,000		

Vegetable Crops

Potatoes	\$ 87,662,350	Onions, Dehydrator	\$8,722,000
Carrots	34,826,000	Onions, Dry	8,574,000
Lettuce	23,858,000	Watermelons	3,463,000
Tomatoes, Fresh and Processing	10,163,000	Garlic	2,089,000

Fruit and Nut Crops

Grapes	\$186,541,000	Peaches, all	\$5,718,000
Citrus, all	88,710,000	Olives	5,520,000
Almonds (Incl. by-products)	78,055,000	Apples	4,936,000
Pistachios	38,845,000	Kiwi	2,546,000
Plums	15,163,000	Walnuts	2,523,000
Nectarines	7,019,000		

Nursery Crops

Rose Plants	\$ 28,653,000	Plants, Propagative	
Fruit, Nut, Vine Plants	10,485,000	Material, Cut Flowers	\$3,731,000

Livestock and Poultry Products

Cattle and Calves	\$ 51,056,000	Sheep and Lambs	\$14,658,000
Milk	35,198,000	Apiary	4,903,900

Kern County traditionally has been considered as a field crops (cotton, alfalfa and vegetables) producing county. That image has changed in recent years, and Kern is emerging as a state leader in the production of many permanent crops. The permanent crop acreage of such crops as almonds, citrus, grapes, pistachios has grown from 35,000 acres in 1960 to well over 235,000 acres in 1982.

Growth has not been limited to the permanent-crop acreage. Great diversification has taken place in Kern's vegetable-crop acreage. The total acres devoted to vegetables have not changed significantly; however, there has been a marked shift in crops. The potato acreage has been greatly reduced and those acres have been replaced by vegetables crops such as carrots, onions, garlic, beans, lettuce, tomatoes and many other miscellaneous vegetable crops. In 1982, Kern led all other counties in the state in the production of almonds, potatoes, carrots, pistachios, wool, sheep and lambs.

Kern County is among the state leaders in livestock production. This industry will continue to be important because of the 2 million-plus acres of range land on which grazing is the only means of converting that forage to human food. Kern leads the state in sheep production and ranks 12th in fluid milk production. Kern County dairies lead the state in production per cow and in the number of cows per dairy.

Climate, soil and geography contribute in large measure to Kern County's booming agricultural industry. Warm summer weather is ideal for crops. Short, mild winters permit the farmer to rely on a long growing season. Deep, rich, fertile soils, accessibility to major markets, skillful and efficient use of a highly advanced technology, and a controlled water supply are other factors which contribute to high agricultural production of Kern County.

There are more than 900,000 acres devoted to irrigated agriculture located primarily in the County's valley floor. There is limited acreage of irrigated agriculture in the mountain valleys and in the eastern portion of Kern County.

The completion of the California Aqueduct has been a significant factor in the growth of Kern's harvested acreage. The first water was delivered to Kern in 1967 and in the succeeding years more than 300,000 acres of new land were brought into production. The increase in irrigated acres has reached a plateau and is expected to remain constant until additional supplemental water sources are developed.

Other principal sources are storage facilities on the Kern River which has an average annual runoff of 700,000 acre-feet, the Friant-Kern Canal of the Central Valley Project, and deep well pumping of underground reserves.

Value of Production (\$000)

Commodity Group	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Cotton Lint	\$220,290	\$171,889	\$271,453	\$303,838	\$281,657	\$243,686
Other Field Crops	83,040	66,674	148,587	187,796	163,474	154,495
Potatoes	53,955	48,410	40,872	53,531	100,137	87,662
Other Vegetable Crops	84,042	86,799	103,840	101,803	120,734	106,210
Seed & Nursery Crops	21,399	23,043	27,714	35,915	47,168	49,044
Fruits & Nuts	237,002	276,064	376,739	464,944	383,312	438,249
Beef Cattle	61,540	68,083	90,590	66,015	39,315	51,056
Milk, Market & Mfg.	30,882	30,345	33,398	38,236	36,950	35,198
Poultry and Eggs	4,641	4,933	5,513	5,654	(1)	(1)
Sheep and Wool	10,398	13,407	10,597	9,904	16,626	16,458
All Other Products	2,393	4,059	5,705	4,851	10,664	11,689
TOTAL	\$809,582	\$793,706	1,115,008	1,272,487	1,200,037	1,193,748

(1) Included in 'all other products'

Minerals

The mineral industry in Kern County is one of the major bulwarks of Kern County's economy. Initially, the quest for this wealth attracted the early settlers. Gold was the first mineral sought by these prospectors. The subsequent search and discovery of other minerals led to Kern County's present status as the largest mineral-producing county in the State of California.

Kern County accounts for more than one-third the total mineral wealth of the entire state. Hydrocarbons (oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids) are the principal mineral commodity of the county, accounting for 91 percent of the total value of production.

The combined value of the 1982 production of all minerals in the county is estimated in excess of \$5.8 billion, or about \$15.8 million per day.

The mineral industry is an important earner of "outside" dollars because nearly all of its output is exported to other parts of the state and nation.

Kern County oil fields have been producing since the first major Kern River oil fields were dug in 1899. In recent years, Kern County has accounted for more than 60 per cent of California's petroleum production. Nearly 10 percent of the known oil reserves in the United States are located in Kern County. Estimates as to the size of these reserves range from 3 billion to as high as 20 billion barrels. Using either estimate, Kern County produces more oil than four of the 13 members of OPEC. If Kern were considered a separate state, it would rank fourth nationally.

A large percentage of the crude oil which is produced in Kern County is considered to be heavy (a low specific gravity). The production of this type of crude oil has greatly increased in recent years through the utilization of steam as a stimulation technique. Kern County is the focal point of the major steaming activities in the entire world and these heavy crude oil reserves are one of the county's major assets.

Medium to high gravity crude together with natural gas and natural gas liquids continue to be a major portion of the hydrocarbon wealth and it is anticipated that continued secondary recovery efforts and new discoveries will maintain this situation.

Gold--the magic that brought early prospectors to the County--is no longer a significant economic factor. The total value of the gold extracted since 1851 is approximately \$46 million. The black gold industry (hydrocarbons) presently yields that same value every 3 days! There are some 32,500 oil and natural gas wells located within the county.

Spurred by the state's top oil-producing field--the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve--Kern County oil fields produced 231,871,000 barrels of crude oil in 1982, the highest level ever, but depressed prices kept the value to \$4.75 billion. Average price of Kern County crude dropped about \$3 a barrel, at least partially due to price-cutting by OPEC nations. Prices are expected to go back up again over the next year or two as the economy continues to improve.

Kern County fields--Elk Hills, Kern River, South Belridge and Midway-Sunset--hold the top-four rankings in California and rank among the top-10 fields in the nation from the standpoint of oil left to produce. Elk Hills is the State's largest producer and is second nationally only to Alaska's Prudhoe Bay.

Kern County is California's second largest producer of non-hydrocarbon minerals and may emerge as the top producer following the completion of expanded cement-producing plants. A \$100 million expansion of California Portland Cement Company's Mojave plant has doubled the plant's production capacity, making it the largest facility of its kind in California and one of the largest in the United States.

Limestone for the manufacture of cement is quarried at three separate locations and a cement manufacturing facility is located at each of these quarries at Monolith near Tehachapi, near Lebec and near Mojave. Other minerals such as sand and gravel, clay, gold, gypsum, pumicite and stone are also extracted in the county. The total value of production of the county's non-hydrocarbons was more than \$514 million in 1982.

Situated in Kern County is one of the world's largest borax deposits. The history of these deposits dates back to the days of the famous 20-mule teams which were used to bring these products to market. Today, these deposits account for three-fourths of the free world's borate production. These materials are extracted near Boron by open-pit mining and are in turn processed in a large on-site industrial complex. A multimillion-dollar boric acid plant completed in 1980 by U. S. Borax adjacent to the company's refinery at Boron is the largest in the world.

Manufacturing

The bulk of manufacturing activity in Kern County is connected with its three major basic unrelated industries--agriculture, mineral production and military bases. A large number of major aerospace manufacturers maintain facilities in Kern County, chiefly at Edwards Air Force Base.

Availability of land and proximity to the rich and growing Los Angeles Basin market will continue to work in favor of increased industrial development in Kern County.

Kern County industry is expected to continue to grow on a stable base. County leaders and residents alike refuse to rest on their laurels, and continue to work aggressively toward attracting new types of manufacturing and other firms to upgrade the skills and incomes of the labor force.

Kern County's strategic location, abundance of land and highly developed transportation facilities make the county an excellent prospective site for firms seeking outlets in the San Joaquin Valley or near the bustling but congested Southern California market.

The value added by manufacturing in the County recorded a dramatic 141% increase in the 1972-1977 Census period. The latest Census of Manufactures reveals the value of manufacturing in the County totaled a record \$351.9 million in the 1977 Census, an increase of \$205.9 million from the 1972 Census.

Manufacturing payrolls in the County increased 75% in the 1972-1977 Census period, from \$56.6 million to \$99.1 million.

There were 5,400 production workers reported in the 1977 Census, up 900 from the 1972 Census. Total employment increased by 900 to 7,300. The number of manufacturing establishments rose 21% for the 1972-1977 census period, from 276 to 334.

Capital expenditures by Kern County manufacturers for new facilities and equipment totaled \$36.1 million, according to the latest census report. This is \$22 million more than reported in the 1972 census. Cost of materials for the County's manufacturing operations, including freight, totaled \$1.4 billion compared with only \$249.7 million in 1972.

Industrial development in the County has nearly paralleled diversification more common in the large metropolitan areas. Table 7 provides a bird's-eye view of the industrial pattern here during 1981.

Since many of the important industry groups in the County are those which require a high degree of skill, the average rate of pay in manufacturing is about as high as that of the State.

Unlike other large metropolitan areas located in the San Joaquin Valley, there is relatively little canning and preserving activity in Kern County, largely due to the current mix of farm products. The increased emphasis on fruit and vegetable production is expected to stimulate the food processing group in future years. California Almonds, Inc. is the largest independent almond processor in the nation. Frito-Lay plans to establish a multimillion dollar snack food facility/bakery/distribution complex in Kern County near the I-5--Highway 58 interchange. Construction of the \$100 million project is expected to begin in 1984, heralding a new era in the growth of food processing facilities in the County.

Manufacturing concerns generally run to rather small size in the County, although there are a few large facilities, mainly in the petroleum refining group. Because the manufacturing industry here is not dominated by food processing as it is in most counties which are greatly dependent upon agriculture, it suffers only very moderate seasonal variations. The steady skilled labor force resulting from this offers encouragement to further industrialization. Of advantage also to manufacturers as well as other kinds of business is the fact that several excellent industrial parks are located in Kern County.

Many heavy industries, namely, stone, clay and glass, are located in the Antelope Valley area of eastern Kern County, near the source of supply. In addition, eastern Kern County attracts many industries captive to space and aerospace development projects occurring at the Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards Air Force Base, and at the Naval Weapons Center, China Lake.

Among major manufacturing groups in the County, as determined by employment, the Petroleum and Coal Products sector continues to hold first place. This group is devoted primarily to the refining of crude petroleum extracted from the County's rich oil fields. Other principal lines are road oil and paving and roofing materials. This industry continues to maintain a high position with steam injection and the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve boosting oil production to record levels.

Elevated to second place is Machinery (except Electrical), continuing a steady growth trend. This industry group has served the great development of agriculture and minerals in the County and produces a variety of items, including many kinds of farm, garden, construction and industrial machinery; construction, mining and materials handling machinery and equipment; oil field equipment and special industry machinery and equipment; refrigeration and machine shop products. Products of particular significance are machine parts, welding equipment, potato harvesters, vegetable grading machines, boilers, pumps, engines, heating equipment, air conditioning units and air compression equipment.

The Stone, Clay and Glass Products category, in third place, has shown growth in recent years upon a foundation provided by Kern's mineral wealth. Important lines are cement, gypsum and plaster products, and glass products made of purchased glass. Others are ready-mix concrete, abrasives, ceramics, pottery, asbestos and miscellaneous mineral products.

Moving into the fourth spot is Transportation and Equipment. Manufacturing of aircraft and aircraft parts comprises the major portion of this industry group's activities. Other noteworthy lines are truck and bus bodies, motor vehicle parts, trailers and boats, and boat parts.

In fifth place among Kern's industry groups as denoted by the Standard Industrial Classification Code is Food and Kindred Products. This group's most important lines are the manufacture of beverage, bakery, dairy, meat, sugar and confectionery and grain mill products, in addition to wine and brandy making and cottonseed oil production.

Primary Metals and Fabricated Products remains in sixth place. This group's principal lines include iron and steel foundries. Others of importance are steel pipe and tubing, grey iron foundry products and rolled, drawn and extruded aluminum.

In seventh place is the Printing and Publishing group. Major activity is in newspaper publishing and commercial printing. However, there are several firms engaged in miscellaneous publishing, lithography, photo-engraving and the preparation of printed forms.

Rubber and Miscellaneous Plastic Products remains in eighth place. Principal lines are fabricated rubber products, miscellaneous plastic products such as egg cartons, meat and cafeteria trays, and extruded plastic items.

Remaining in ninth place among Kern manufacturing industries is the Chemicals and Allied Products group. A relatively stable industry in the area, it accounts for a variety of products, including agricultural pesticides, carbon black, fertilizers, a number of industrial organic and agricultural chemicals, paints, varnishes, lacquers, enamels and allied products.

Lumber and Wood Products has climbed into tenth position. This industry, though relatively small, is experiencing moderate growth in the County. Most important lines are millwork, veneer, plywood, structural wood members, wood containers, sawmills and planing mills, mobile homes and wood building.

Dropping into eleventh place is the Apparel group, whose principal Kern products are women's, misses' and juniors' clothing, textile bags and canvas goods, as well as miscellaneous fabricated textile products.

Maintaining twelfth place is Electrical and Electronic Equipment. The major portion of this group's output consists of electronic components and accessories, electrical industrial apparatus, radio and television receiving equipment, electronic components and accessories.

Furniture and Fixtures is in thirteenth place. Important lines are wooden furniture, upholstered furniture, mattresses, bed springs, lockers, partitions, office and store fixtures, venetian blinds and custom furniture.

Transportation

Kern County is served by the main lines of the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific railroads. Amtrak provides passenger rail service between Bakersfield and the San Francisco Bay area. Besides these, numerous bus and truck lines provide access in all directions. There are 26 common carriers with operational authority into Kern County. The trucking industry has been expanding rapidly and this trend is expected to continue in the future. The continued growth in the production of perishable fruit and vegetable crops requires heavy dependence on trucking. Air freight transportation, particularly for high-valued and perishable goods, will also increase in the future.

Meadows Field in Bakersfield is headquarters for nine County-owned airports. There are more than 60 private airports and landing strips in the County, and two operated by the military (at Edwards Air Force Base and China Lake Naval Weapons Center). Bakersfield is served by regularly scheduled flights of Pacific Coast, Pacific Express, Imperial, Continental and Sun Aire airlines. Inyokern is served by Mojave Airlines. A multimillion-dollar project to extend the Meadows Field runway to 9,100 feet is expected to enhance aviation activity in Kern County.

A vast interlocking network of major State and transcontinental highways and freeways spans the County. Modern arteries move traffic efficiently and swiftly in all directions. Freeway 99 is a multilane divided north-south highway through the County via Bakersfield. Interstate 5 through the County's western side is another major high-speed north-south divided artery in Kern County's expanding highway network. The road system in the County currently contains 867 miles of State-maintained highways and 3,363 miles of County-maintained highways.

Communities

	Population				Assessed Valuation 1982-83	Taxable Sales (\$000)		
	1970 (1)	1980 (1)	1983 (2)	% Change 1970-80		1980	1981	1982
Arvin	5,199	6,863	7,325	32.0	51,998,976	21,505	23,489	23,258
Bakersfield	69,515	105,599	118,600	51.9	2,952,692,017	1,196,381	1,403,662	1,374,727
Calif. City	1,309	2,743	2,970	109.5	169,563,045	3,165	3,412	2,773
Delano	14,559	16,491	18,491	13.3	175,481,183	96,554	109,216	98,964
McFarland	4,177	5,151	5,775	23.3	39,874,458	6,863	7,477	7,045
Maricopa	740	946	1,020	27.8	19,299,508	2,470	2,993	3,485
Ridgecrest	7,629	15,929	21,300	108.8	321,803,773	78,717	90,737	90,997
Shafter	5,327	7,010	7,350	31.6	74,624,534	38,118	41,343	37,966
Taft	4,285	5,316	5,775	24.1	102,037,647	71,898	98,110	90,756
Tehachapi	4,211	4,126	4,310	(-2.1)	62,244,700	15,810	17,315	27,893
Wasco	8,269	9,613	10,700	16.3	90,125,653	27,196	31,983	33,131

(1) U.S. Census

(2) State Department of Finance Estimate

Bakersfield, Kern County's largest city and the County seat, is a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, situated almost in the geographic center of the County. Together with large unincorporated communities immediately adjoining the city limits, it comprises a metropolitan area population of 243,700. It is the County's major trading center. Major manufacturing activities include iron and steel fabrication, plastic foam products, beverage cartons, food and kindred products, petroleum refining and related industries, and textiles. Bakersfield is one of the major convention centers of the State.

Fifteen miles southeast of Bakersfield is the incorporated city of Arvin, which, with the surrounding area, has a population of about 7,300 (greater Arvin, 11,270). Cotton is king in this area, and there are several cotton gins. The climate and rich soil are such as to produce large quantities of grapes, deciduous fruits and potatoes. The region's dairy herds are outstanding. Arvin is the home of a metal cabinets industry, Sandusky California. Between Arvin and Bakersfield is the Lamont area, including Weed Patch and Mt. View, with a population of about 13,000. Between Arvin and Lamont is the home of Lamont Winery, the fourth largest winery in California.

On Highway 58, about 45 miles southeast of Bakersfield, the city of Tehachapi lies in an upland valley through which runs the Tehachapi Pass. This valley area, including also the unincorporated community of Monolith, contains a population of about 10,320. It is the fresh apple capital of Southern California and is an important producer of a variety of fruits and livestock. Tehachapi is also gaining recognition as one of the major wind-energy producing areas in the state. At Monolith is a long-established cement plant with a capacity of 500,000 tons annually. The plant provides a major manufacturing payroll for the area. In the Cummings Valley near Tehachapi is the California Correctional Institution. The multimillion-dollar's correctional facility employs 472 persons and contributes an annual payroll of \$10.5 million to the area's economy. Construction has begun on a \$61 million maximum security prison. When completed early in 1985, employment is expected to nearly double. The Tehachapi-Cummings County water District Project, enabling importation of California Aqueduct water to the Tehachapi Valley, insures the future prosperity of the area. Major new recreation-resort developments provide additional stimulus to the area's economy.

On the edge of the Mojave Desert just east of Tehachapi Pass is the unincorporated community of Mojave, with a trading area population of approximately 5,000. This high desert community is gaining attention as an industrial center. Columbian Chemicals carbon black plant is located in the area. Mojave Airport (with 2,998 acres, and three runways) is recognized as a Civilian Flight Test Center by the Federal Aviation Agency and the California Aeronautics Administration. The airport contains approximately 110 buildings which include hangars, T-hangars, shops, and administration facilities. General Electric Co. maintains a major jet engine modification plant at Mojave Airport. Mojave is also important as a tourist stopover since it is the junction point of Highway 58 and 14 and of the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe Railroads.

Twelve miles south of Mojave on Highway 14 and on the Southern Pacific Railway is Rosamond, another high desert community with a population of approximately 3,250. The mineral resources, new plants, rich soil, high desert climate and nearby facilities of the federal government are rapidly converting the district containing these communities into an important industrial area. It also has become a favorite tourist spot. Nearby is Burton's Tropico Mine and Mill tours, with its mining and historical museum and ghost town buildings.

California City, about 14 miles from Mojave, east off Highway 14, is the third largest city in California in land area. It encompasses 158 square miles or 102,000 acres and has an estimated population of 2,970.

On the Santa Fe Railway and Highway 58, about 30 miles east of Mojave in a high desert region near the County boundary, lies the unincorporated community of Boron. The area population is approximately 2,930. Near the town is the world's largest deposit of borax. The mineral has been mined here since 1927. Recently millions of dollars were invested in construction and expansion of manufacturing facilities. The area produces more than 1.5 million tons of borax annually. About 70 percent of the free world's supply of borax ore is produced here.

Almost equi-distant from Mojave, Rosamond and Boron is the sprawling Edwards Air Force Base complex. It is one of four centers in the Air Research and Development Command and also is a full-fledged Flight Test Center. Covering 301,209 acres, it is the second largest Air Force base in the United States and has a population of 7,830.

The Edwards Air Force Base complex conducts and supports tests of aircraft systems; conducts flight evaluations and recovery of aerospace research vehicles; testing and evaluation of aerospace systems.

Edwards Air Force Base was the primary site for initial landings of the reusable Space Shuttle.

Multimillion-dollar plants in the east Kern area surrounding Mojave, California City, Boron, and Rosamond (some of them among the largest of their kind in the world) manufacture a variety of products, including Portland cement, carbon black, graphite electrodes and anodes, aluminum products, electronics and aircraft parts.

Almost directly south of Bakersfield on Freeway 99/Interstate 5, in the mountains at the southern border of the County, lies the community of Lebec. The population of the town and the nearby surrounding Frazier Park-Lake of the Woods area is approximately 2,500. The surrounding region is ideal vacation country and is the scene of major new recreational-community development. Frazier Park and Fort Tejon State Park draw thousands of visitors annually. Hunting, fishing and picnicking are possible almost the year round. Nearby is the headquarters of the Tejon Ranch Co., the largest contiguous, private land holding company in California.

Northwest of Bakersfield is Shafter, in the heart of one of the San Joaquin Valley's greatest agricultural regions. Oil and gas fields nearby help bolster the economic stability of the Shafter area. Cotton and potatoes are king crops in the area which is also gaining fame as a major almond and rose-growing center. The nearby U.S. Department of Agriculture Experimental Farm and Research Center has won world-wide acclaim for its work in crop improvements and development. Shafter's industry essentially is geared to serving agriculture, with some light manufacturing. There are several modern potato packing plants, cotton gins, almond hulling and rose plant packing facilities. Shafter has gained national renown as the home of the finest harness racing stables in the U.S. Shafter Airport (famous in World War II as Minter Field) offers buildings, utilities, rail and other fine facilities for industrial development. Among major industries in the Shafter area are Ranchers Cotton Oil mill and refinery, Belridge Packing Co., major fruit and vegetable packing operation, and Murphy Products (subsidiary of Schlitz Brewing Co.) animal feed plant.

North of Shafter is Wasco, in an agricultural and oil-producing area, which has a trading area population of about 14,000. Cotton and potatoes are major crops, but the area also produces other field crops, fruits, grapes and livestock, and it is the State's foremost area for production of rose plants. A multimillion-dollar water distribution system guarantees an adequate water supply to this entire area. Major industrial activities are related to agriculture, and include cotton ginning, potato storage and packing and the manufacture of insecticides, farm equipment and concrete pipe. There is also some gypsum mining.

On the northern boundary of the County is Delano, Kern County's s third largest incorporated city. Basically a highly productive agricultural area, Delano has a number of growing small industries that supplement the area's multi-million-dollar annual output. Manufacturing plants in the area produce farm machinery, irrigation equipment, pumps, valves, wines and brandy. Development of an industrial park adjoining Delano Airport is expected to bring about greater diversification of industry. Nearby Lake Woollomes offers sail-boating and family recreation. Population of the Delano trading area is approximately 26,000

Just south of Delano is McFarland, an incorporated city which lies in a rich farming area. Population of the McFarland area is estimated at 5,500. Alfalfa, cotton, sugar beets, potatoes and nursery rose-stock are leading farm products and industries of the area. Growing and processing of almonds is an expanding industry in the McFarland area. The area is also advancing as a prime dairy center. Almaden Winery, located on an 82-acre site south of McFarland, represents a multimillion-dollar enterprise.

The Shafter-Wasco-McFarland area is California's major producer of rose plants. About three-fourths of the State's production is centered here.

Northeast of Bakersfield is the Kern River Valley where the Isabella Dams serve the dual purpose of controlling the Kern River, a major source of water for the County, and providing a lake with a capacity of 570,000 acre feet, for boating, fishing, water skiing and other recreational uses. The Valley attracts sightseers, sportsmen and motion picture/television producers. Major economic activities are recreation, cattle raising and the production of hydroelectric power. Population of the Kern River Valley area is 16,200. Communities in the Valley include Bodfish, Fairview, Johnsontdale, Kernville, Lake Isabella, Miracle Hot Springs, Mt. Mesa, Onyx, Riverkern, Road's End, Southlake, Weldon and Wofford Heights. The Kern Canyon Freeway Link between China Gardens and Lake Isabella is accelerating tourist trade in the Kern River Valley.

In the northeastern corner of the County are the communities of Ridgecrest, Inyokern and China Lake, the latter the site of the Naval Weapons Center, the Navy's largest research and development center. Investment in physical plant at the NWC exceeds \$1 billion and its annual payroll exceeds \$142 million. The Center's mission is research, development, testing and evaluation of Navy air warfare systems except for anti-submarine systems. The Center is also the national evaluation and testing facility for parachutes. Population of the area is approximately 22,500, making Ridgecrest the second largest city in the County. The surrounding Indian Wells Valley area is a mecca for rock collectors and affords easy access to scenic recreation areas.

Directly south, on the eastern border of the County, are the mining communities of Johannesburg, Randsburg, Atolia and Red Mountain, where in past years millions of dollars worth of gold, silver and tungsten were mined. Within the trading area of Ridgecrest-China Lake-Inyokern is the Searles Valley, where brine from an ancient inland sea is processed to provide essential chemicals, including potash, borax and lithium. To the west of these mining communities are Cantil and Saltdale, where salt is produced by solar evaporation from the Koehn Dry Lake bed.

The western third of the County is rich in agriculture and also is one of the world's important oil-producing areas. Largest city is Taft. With the immediately adjoining communities of Ford City, Taft Heights and Fellows, the area has a population of 13,800. It is headquarters for major oil companies and for independent producers in the Midway, Buena Vista Hill and Sunset oil fields, and is the gateway to the recreational area of Mt. Pinos and the productive farm and oil empire of the Cuyama Valley. The nearby Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve is one of the world's largest oil fields. The Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area features an 83-acre fishing lake and an 873-acre boating lake.

The community of Maricopa, with an area population of over 1,000, lies to the south, and McKittrick, with a population of 150, to the north of Taft.

Buttonwillow, lying west of Bakersfield, is a farming community noted particularly for cotton and rice. Buttonwillow area population is currently about 2,750. Nearby is the State Tule Elk Park where the last of the Tule elk herd is quartered under supervision of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The California Aqueduct project and the Interstate 5 freeway through the County's western side are expected to spur the area's agricultural, industrial and recreational growth.

Acknowledgments--Kern County Farm Advisor, University of California, Agricultural Extension Service; Kern County Agricultural Commissioner, Kern County Assessor; Kern County Planning Department, State Department of Finance

1.	Total Acreage	5,217,280
	Land Area U. S. Ownership (Acres)	1,424,699
	Land in Farms (Acres)	3,128,585
	Land Area in Farms	59.9%
	Cropland	992,164
	Number of Farms	1,849
	Number of Irrigated Farms	1,459
	Average Size of Farm (Acres)	1,692
	Acres irrigated	871,027
	Average Size Irrigated Farms (Acres)	597
	Farm Labor - (Man Weeks)	
	Peak	30,300 (July 1982)
	Low	18,920 (February 1982)
	Source: Kern County Farm Advisor's Office	

AREA OF COMMERCIAL FOREST LAND
BY OWNERSHIP

	KERN COUNTY (in thousand acres)	ALL COUNTIES
Total Land	5,217	100,207
Commercial Forest Land	35	16,703
Public	1	9,071
Private	34	7,632

SOURCE: 1980 California Statistical Abstract

2. Climate - Temperature

Month	Normal		Monthly	Extremes (40 Years)			
	Daily Maximum	Daily Minimum		Record High	Year	Record Low	Year
J	57.5	37.4	47.5	79	1974	20	1963
F	63.3	41.4	52.4	85	1977	26	1949
M	68.6	44.5	56.6	92	1969	31	1966
A	75.5	49.9	62.7	98	1965	35	1955
M	83.6	56.0	69.8	107	1976	40	1950
J	91.5	62.3	76.9	114	1976	45	1953
J	99.1	68.7	83.9	115	1950	53	1948
A	96.5	66.6	81.6	112	1981	52	1942
S	91.1	62.1	76.6	112	1955	45	1948
O	80.5	53.3	66.9	103	1980	29	1971
N	67.8	44.2	56.0	91	1949	28	1941
D	57.4	38.4	47.9	82	1939	21	1962
YR	77.7	52.1	64.9	115	JUL. 1950	20	JAN. 1963

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Environmental Data Service

3. <u>Population</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent of Change</u>	<u>Per Cent of State</u>
April 1, 1930 (1)	82,570	51.5	1.45
April 1, 1940 (1)	135,124	63.6	1.96
April 1, 1950 (1)	228,309	69.0	2.16
July 1, 1955 (2)	259,400	13.6	1.99
April 1, 1960 (1)	291,984	12.6	1.86
July 1, 1970 (1)	330,234	13.1	1.65
April 1, 1980 (1)	403,089	22.1	1.70
January 1, 1983 (2)	442,800	9.9	1.77

(1) Census enumeration

(2) Estimate by the State Department of Finance

(3) Estimates and Projections by Kern County Planning Commission

4. Personal Incomes of County Residents (\$000)

	1970	1977	1978	1979	1980
Wages and Salaries	798,674	1,623,034	1,797,533	2,087,174	3,681,639
Other Labor Income	37,962	129,933	162,142	178,758	206,323
Proprietors' Income	131,545	303,868	277,757	341,641	335,686
Property Income	128,232	245,911	289,790	389,007	463,960
Transfer Payments	145,405	368,470	404,653	460,874	538,453
*Total	1,159,935	2,492,957	2,728,156	3,244,284	3,681,639

*Minus contributions for Social Insurance and Resident Adjustment.

5. Economic Trends 1960-81 (\$000)

	<u>Personal Income</u>	<u>Factory Payrolls</u>	<u>Value Farm Products</u>	<u>Taxable Sales</u>
1960	689,954	42,940	246,998	398,021
1961	705,352	39,760	234,525	401,397
1962	748,900	45,667	263,257	422,174
1963	836,800	50,877	285,144	449,451
1964	808,482	53,790	311,755	475,669
1965	930,759	63,300	349,215	511,350
1966	939,411	68,119	306,383	532,642
1967	1,002,198	68,052	297,176	546,056
1968	1,109,198	67,896	324,200	581,407
1969	1,180,669	69,256	320,276	595,041
1970	1,246,300	68,431	346,676	616,257
1971	1,362,167	72,086	356,434	711,715
1972	1,449,503	86,841	434,775	821,845
1973	1,572,792	N.A.	597,739	976,510
1974	1,849,663	108,146	706,686	1,217,510
1975	1,995,119	101,390	744,308	1,345,411
1976	2,257,248	113,516	873,656	1,507,612
1977	2,492,957	129,122	809,583	1,798,922
1978	2,728,156	141,623	793,707	2,030,418
1979	3,244,284	163,821	1,115,009	2,407,728
1980	3,681,639	183,095	1,272,487	2,912,033
1981	n/a	215,088	1,199,623	3,354,043

6. Mining and Minerals	1978	1979	1990	1981	1982
Value of Production(\$000)	2,161,126	2,419,644	5,369,862	6,416,277	5,758,291
(1) Petroleum	1,761,500	67,799	4,774,612	5,533,837	4,872,000
(2) Natural Gas	53,426	1,985,885	68,360	321,900	371,800
(3) All Others**	346,200	365,960	526,889	560,540	514,491

** Includes boron minerals, carbondioxide, cement, clay, gypsum, natural gas liquids, pumice and volcanic cinders, salt, sodium and tungsten concentrate-60%W03

7. Leading Manufacturing Groups - 1981	Reporting Units	Average Monthly Employment	Wages and Salaries (\$000)
(1) Petroleum and Coal Products	16	1,544	\$ 41,442
(2) Machinery except Electrical	54	1,439	30,275
(3) Stone, Clay and Glass Products	28	1,230	31,029
(4) Transportation Equipment	22	1,197	31,250
(5) Food and Kindred Products	27	1,184	21,314
(6) Primary Metals/Fabricated Metal Prod.	31	850	14,572
(7) Printing and Publishing	40	655	9,721
(8) Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products	12	595	10,224
(9) Chemical and Allied Products	17	490	11,489
(10) Lumber and Wood Products	15	451	5,507
(11) Apparel and Other Textile Prod.	10	196	1,885
(12) Electric and Electronic Equipment	6	152	2,426
(13) Furniture and Fixtures	7	105	863
Other Manufacturing	14	211	3,092
TOTAL--ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	299	10,299	215,089

Source: California Employment Development Department

8. Wholesale Trade (Census)	1963	1967	1972	1977
Number of Establishments	462	466	556	548
Sales or Receipts (\$000)	626,196	429,716	653,207	1,960,954
Number of Employees	3,904	3,750	5,673	6,699
Wages and Salaries (\$000)	21,351	24,309	44,137	87,626

9. Retail Trade (Census)	1963	1967	1972	1977
Number of Establishments	2,884	3,118	3,164	3,147
Sales or Receipts (\$000)	454,822	542,176	733,747	1,295,066
Number of Employees	14,513	15,724	17,964	22,734
Wages and Salaries (\$000)	53,836	67,382	92,704	153,792

10. Taxable Retail	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sales by Major Groups (\$000)					
Food Group	139,950	161,741	182,977	213,986	235,541
Eating & Drinking Places	138,315	157,756	179,417	202,178	214,150
General Merchandise	168,333	185,373	199,251	216,085	228,162
Apparel	48,772	53,242	60,525	71,239	65,237
Furniture-Hshold Appliances	64,694	74,860	81,036	88,535	92,270
Motor Vehicles	294,180	324,752	307,152	360,097	345,253
Service Stations	191,766	265,555	371,124	388,543	345,996
Bldg.Mat.-Hdwre, Implements	207,400	245,831	254,095	262,293	238,619
Drug Stores	32,878	36,573	40,269	45,580	49,897
All Other Retail Estab.	744,150	902,045	1,236,187	1,505,507	1,401,541
Total Sales (\$000)	2,030,438	2,407,728	2,912,033	3,354,043	3,216,666

Source: Statistical Research & Consulting Division, State Bd. of Equalization.

11. Service Industries (Census)	1963	1967	1972	1977
Number of Establishments	1,888	2,193	2,474	3,017
Wages and Salaries (\$000)	19,998	24,040	36,985	69,636
Number of Employees	4,926	5,739	7,107	8,448
Sales or Receipts (\$000)	65,459	81,042	131,394	247,985

12. Business Patterns - 1977 (Census)

	Number of Estab.	Number of Employees*	Taxable Payrolls Jan.-March(\$000)
Mineral Extraction	220	5,822	23,088
Manufacturing	301	7,918	25,485
Construction	693	5,021	16,887
Utilities, Transportation, Com.	362	5,360	16,636
Trade	2,773	28,161	54,395
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	575	4,469	10,997
Service	1,869	16,486	33,407
Other	311	2,927	5,408
Total	7,104	76,164	186,303

*Mid-March Pay Period

13. Wealth Trends	1972	1982	Percent Change
(a) Bank Deposits (\$000)	634,797	1,529,525	(1) +141
(a) Time Deposits (\$000)	307,530	1,035,806	(1) +237
(a) Demand Deposits (\$000)	207,297	466,405	(1) +125
(b) Telephones	206,538	330,004	+ 60
(c) State Income Tax Ret. (\$10M-\$20M)	33,926	36,741	(1) + 8
(c) State Income Tax Ret. (\$20-\$50M)	5,632	44,273	(1) +686
(c) State Income Tax Ret. (Over \$50)	475	4,877	(1) +926
(d) Auto Registrations	166,850	191,699	+ 15
(d) Truck Registrations	51,591	86,771	+ 68

(1) 1981

14. Public Finance	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Assessed Value of Property (\$000)*	14,251,280	18,496,628	21,384,270	23,272,542
Property Tax Levies (\$000)**	142,513	184,966	214,592	232,725
Average Tax Rate	1%	1%	1%	1%

(1)	117,398,552	(2)	66,777,517	1979-80
(1)	122,405,043			1980-81
(1)	499,677,472			1981-82
(1)	502,880,803			1982-83

* Does not include Homeowners (1) and Business Exemptions (2);

Note: Beginning in 1980-81, business inventories 100% tax exempt.

** Combined County, City and School District and Special District levies.

Source: Kern County Assessor
Kern County Auditor-Controller

U.C. BERKELEY LIBRARIES



C113908956

